

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 13-27 were pending in this application. In this response, claim 24 has been amended and claims 14-15 canceled. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 13, and 16-27 remain pending.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

Entry of the foregoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. First, the amendments address the new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, thereby reducing the number of issues present upon appeal. Second, the amendments raise no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination. Third, the amendments clearly overcome the grounds of rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 13-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention for the reasons presented at page 2, paragraph 2 of the Official Action. The rejection has been addressed by canceling claims 14 and 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention for the reasons presented at page 2, paragraph 3 of the Official Action.

The rejection has been addressed by amending claim 24 to depend from claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 13-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,379,798 to Yazaki (hereafter “Yazaki”) on the grounds set forth beginning at page 2, paragraph 5 of the Official Action. This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 14 and 15, which allows the remaining claims to distinguish over the cited reference for at least the reasons presented in the last response, which is incorporated herein by reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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